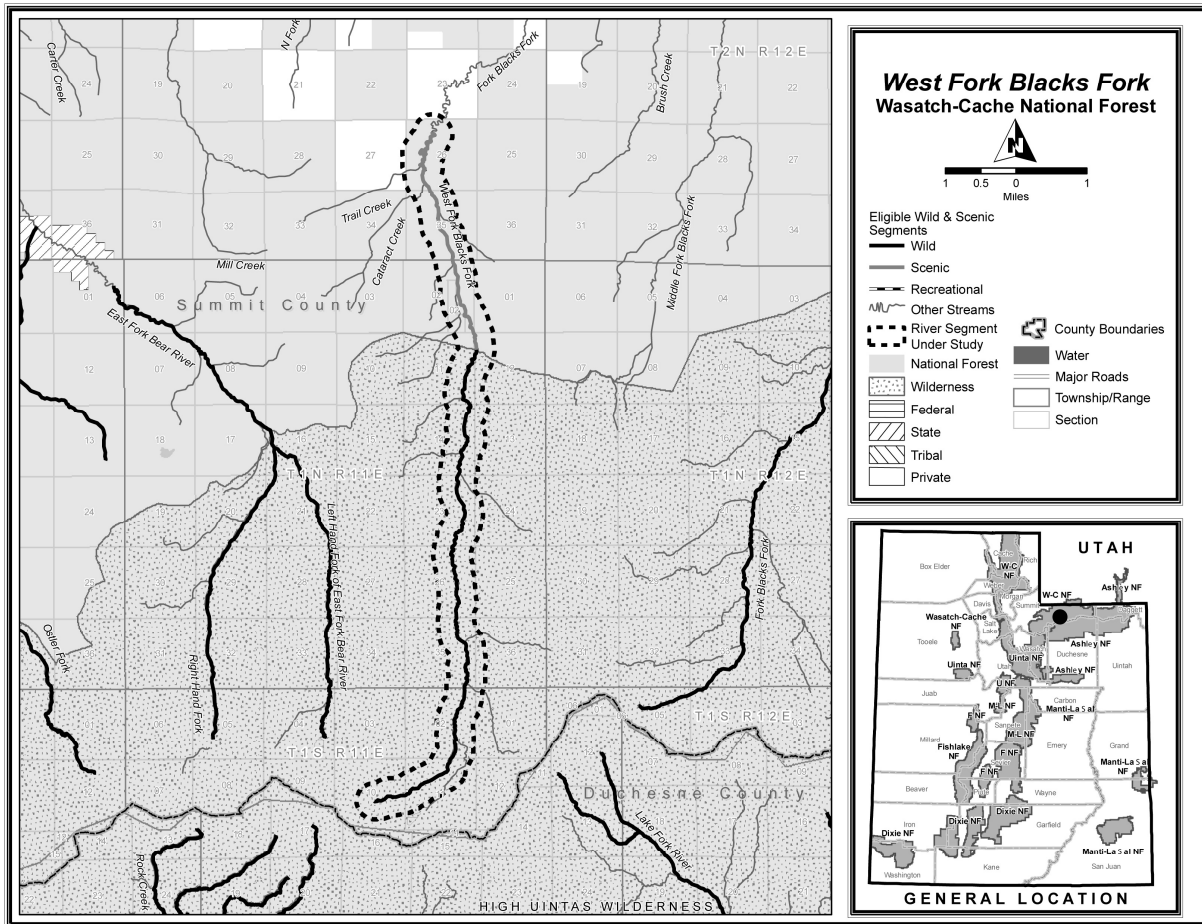


## West Fork Blacks Fork Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



### STUDY AREA SUMMARY

**Name of River:** West Fork Blacks Fork

**River Mileage:**

Studied: 11.9 miles, from source to trailhead

Eligible: same

**Location:**

West Fork Blacks Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 10, T 1 S, R 11 E, SLM	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 11, T 1 N, R 11 E, SLM	Wild	8.0
Segment 2	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 11, T 1 N, R 11 E, SLM	NE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 26, T 2 N, R 11 E, SLM	Scenic	3.9

**Physical Description of River Segment:**

This stream flows between elevations that range between 9,200-12,000 feet. The stream meanders through a relatively wide valley and outwash terraces. The West Fork valley bottom is fairly broad with some large meadows and willow bottoms.

The upper portion of this segment is typical of the alpine and subalpine communities of the Uinta Mountains. Krummholz spruce communities occur at higher elevations, while Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine dominate at mid to lower elevations along this segment. Aspen communities and aspen/conifer communities also occur at lower elevations. Riparian communities typically occur as broad meadows dominated by tall and low growing willows with herbaceous undergrowth. Narrow riparian corridors with scattered tall willows growing beneath conifer overstories generally separate these meadows. This segment is more or less natural in appearance, with local dispersed recreation and livestock grazing impacts. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species occur along this segment.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

**Name and Date of Eligibility Document:** Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

**Determination of Free-flowing Condition:** The segment is free from major channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

### **Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):**

**Scenery** – Wide meadows in a broad alpine valley mark the beginning of the segment. The segment offers a variety of scenes along its length with meadows, conifer forests and aspen communities. The pleasing setting is enjoyed by hikers of the West Fork Blacks Fork Trail. Outside of the corridor there are stunning views of the High Uintas enjoyed by photographers, hikers, and artists alike. The scenic values of the stream are outstandingly remarkable.

**Ecology** – Diversity of riparian communities, including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities with a variety of associated understory species in relatively stable condition constitute an outstandingly remarkable value.

## **CLASSIFICATION**

**Basis for the Classification of River Segments:** Segment 1—Wild; Segment 2—Scenic

The West Fork of Blacks Fork is eligible for the Wild and Scenic River System. It is classified as wild above the wilderness boundary and scenic below the wilderness. The wild segment is classified as wild because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

The scenic segment is classified as scenic because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.

- Presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.
- The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable.
- Evidence of past logging or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable provided the forest appears natural from the river bank.
- Accessible in places by road.
- Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.

### **SUITABILITY REPORT**

#### **Landownership and Land Uses –**

<b>River Mile</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Acres</b>
0-8.0	Wasatch-Cache National Forest High Uintas Wilderness	2548
8.0-11.9	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1190
	Private land within stream corridor	27
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>3765 acres</b>

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within 1/4 mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

This area is zoned Agricultural Grazing (AG-160) by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. The Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas.

**Mineral and Energy Resource Activities** – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness and has been withdrawn from mineral or oil and gas development. The small portion of the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

**Water Resources Development** – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

**Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments** – Forest Road 063 parallels the stream for most of the portion below the wilderness boundary. Trail 101 follows the stream, and provides access to the High Uintas Wilderness via Dead Horse Pass.

**Recreation Activities** – Hiking into the High Uintas Wilderness along an established trail is a good recreation opportunity, as is other dispersed use, but the area is not heavily utilized, and there is no developed opportunity available. Most users are local and Wasatch Front residents.

Some photography opportunities are spectacular. The wide meadows and valley afford spectacular views of the High Uintas, which offer artists, hikers and photographers a distinctive setting. Vegetation diversity shows a high degree of patterning when looking at larger vistas. Fishing and hunting opportunities are similar to those in other local drainages. The State of Utah ranking for fishing is Class III, important. Boating is not possible.

**Grazing Activities** – This segment is within the West Fork Blacks Fork and the Larson Sheep Allotments. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. Ranchers must comply with grazing permits administered by the Forest.

**Other Resource Activities** – There is one hunting outfitter guide whose area covers the Evanston District. Recreation related economic opportunities are limited.

**Special Designations** – The West Fork Blacks Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 7.4 miles of the West Fork Blacks Fork are within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the majority of the stream segment corridor:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest for the stream corridor south of the

## Bear River Smiths Fork Trail 091:

Management Prescription 1.5 Recommended Wilderness: These are areas recommended for wilderness. They were identified through the Forest Plan revision roadless area inventory, evaluation and recommendation process. This analysis is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning regulations and the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. Congress retains the final authority for designating wilderness areas. For areas recommended as wilderness, wilderness characteristics must be protected until Congress takes final action (FSH 1909.12, 7.31). These areas are managed to maintain the characteristics qualifying them as capable and available for wilderness recommendation. Activities must not result in long-term changes to the wilderness character.

(S1.5) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, new trail construction, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(G1.5-1) Snowmobiling is allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G1.5-2) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed.

(G1.5-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

## Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest for the stream corridor north of the Bear River Smiths Fork Trail 091:

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Management Prescription 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives: Emphasis is on properly functioning conditions. Emphasis is not on timber growth and yield. Instead it is on maintaining or restoring vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability.

(G5.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G5.1-2) Road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

**Socio-Economic Environment** – This stream is located in Summit County, in a location that occupies a

rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

**Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated** – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

#### **SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:**

**(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.**

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

**(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.**

This segment is on entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land.

**(3) Support or opposition to designation.**

There were public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that provided support for eligibility and designation for the West Fork Blacks Fork segment.

During scoping Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses. A general supportive comment received thought it was important to protect Uinta Mountain segments even if they were within the Wilderness.

Two public comments received during the comment period for the Draft EIS state that the West Fork Blacks Fork segment should not be designated, due to the adverse effects designation will have on timber management, grazing and access to and operation of the early warning sites for reservoir management that are located on this segment. Further, some portion of the segment is already protected by Wilderness.

**(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.**

Designation of the West Fork Blacks Fork segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness, Recommended Wilderness and the RHCA within the stream corridor. Designation would also be consistent with the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources and Wyoming Fish and Games plan for improving trout fisheries.

**(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.**

Should this segment be found suitable, it would contribute to basin integrity especially when combined with the other eligible headwater segments of the Blacks Fork drainage; namely, the Little East Fork and East Fork Blacks Fork.

**(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.**

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Evanston Ranger District.

**East Fork Blacks Fork  
Wasatch-Cache National Forest**

1 0.5 0 1

Eligible Wild & Scenic  
Segments

- Wild
- Scenic
- Recreational
- Other Streams
- River Segment Under Study
- National Forest
- Wilderness
- Federal
- State
- Tribal
- Private
- County Boundaries
- Water
- Major Roads
- Township/Range
- Section

**GENERAL LOCATION**

**Name of River:** East Fork Blacks Fork

Studied: 9.6 miles, from source to confluence with Little East Fork  
Eligible: Same

East Fork Blacks Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 5, T 1 N, R 12 E, SLM	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 35, T 2 N, R 12 E, SLM	Wild	9.6

Elevations range from 9,400-11,000 feet. This is a fairly typical north-flowing High Uinta stream. There are not a lot of lakes in this drainage, and the drainage that the stream and canyon has cut is narrower than some adjacent to it. It is not a very steep drainage, but the stream bed is rocky. It has few meanders or falls. Soils are typical, thin rocky high elevation forest soils. It is surrounded by the high ridges of the



Uinta Mountains. The creek has its headwaters in the alpine zone, and then flows through lodgepole forests which typically grow adjacent to the stream banks. A few small meadows are present in the middle portion of the segment, while some larger meadows are present near the confluence. Wildlife is typical of that found across the north slope of the Uintas. Threatened or endangered species are not present. Sensitive species may be present. The sensitive Colorado cutthroat trout is present.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

**Name and Date of Eligibility Document:** Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

**Determination of Free-flowing Condition:** The segment is free from dams, diversions or other modifications. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free flowing.

### **Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):**

**Ecology** – Diversity of riparian communities, including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities with a variety of associated understory species in relatively stable condition constitute an outstandingly remarkable value.

## **CLASSIFICATION**

### **Basis for the Classification of River – Wild**

The East Fork Blacks Fork is eligible for the Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a wild river because it is a primitive, unmodified environment. This wild segment is classified as wild because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

## **SUITABILITY REPORT**

**Landownership and Land Uses** – This river segment is almost completely within the High Uintas Wilderness with only the last 1.6 miles being below the wilderness boundary. It is all on the National Forest on the Evanston Ranger District.

<b>River Mile</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Acres</b>
0-8.0	Wasatch-Cache National Forest High Uintas Wilderness	2538
8.0-9.6	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	520
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>3058 acres</b>

**Mineral and Energy Resource Activities** – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness and has been withdrawn from mineral entry and mineral leasing. The small portion of the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are

no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

**Water Resources Development** – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

**Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments** – This segment is accessed from Forest Trail 102 which parallels the stream and begins at the East Fork Blacks Fork Guard Station. Visitors can also come into the drainage by trail from the Ashley National Forest side through Red Knob pass. The area is accessed from the East Fork Blacks Fork Trailhead which is well-developed and has eight campsites present.

**Recreation Activities** – Scenery and views from the river corridor vary some along its length, but are often restricted by conifers and the narrowness of the canyon. Outdoor recreation provides a primitive, wilderness experience. Winter uses in the area are minimal, due to its remote location, but some snowmobiling use is present. Visitor numbers here are lower than in some adjacent drainages, as the drainage lacks the larger lakes that attract visitors (fishing pressure) to some other areas. The State of Utah rates the fishery as a Class III (important).

**Other Resource Activities** – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in this stream corridor.

**Grazing Activities** – The area is an active sheep grazing allotment. Sheep graze in the upper part of the drainage as part of the East Fork Blacks Fork Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

**Special Designations** – The East Fork Blacks Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness Area and is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare. Activities specifically prohibited in the Wilderness Act are: commercial enterprises; roads and structures; the landing of aircraft; the use of motorized equipment; and motor or mechanical transport.

Approximately 1.6 miles of this stream corridor are within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor within the

## High Uintas Wilderness:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor below the High Uintas Wilderness boundary:

Management Prescription 1.5 Recommended Wilderness: These are areas recommended for wilderness. They were identified through the Forest Plan revision roadless area inventory, evaluation and recommendation process. This analysis is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning regulations and the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. Congress retains the final authority for designating wilderness areas. For areas recommended as wilderness, wilderness characteristics must be protected until Congress takes final action (FSH 1909.12, 7.31). These areas are managed to maintain the characteristics qualifying them as capable and available for wilderness recommendation. Activities must not result in long-term changes to the wilderness character.

(S1.5) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, new trail construction, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(G1.5-1) Snowmobiling is allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G1.5-2) Wildland fire use, and prescribed fire are allowed.

(G1.5-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

**Socio-Economic Environment** – This stream is located in Summit County, Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District that includes land in Wyoming and Utah.

In 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There are a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uinta Mountains come from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

**Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated** – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

#### **SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:**

**(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.**

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

**(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.**

This segment is on entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land.

**(3) Support or opposition to designation.**

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the East Fork Blacks Fork.

During scoping Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses, including grazing. A general supportive comment received thought it was important to protect Uinta Mountain segments even if they were within the Wilderness.

Several public comments were received during the comment period for the Draft EIS reflecting support and opposition for the East Fork Blacks Fork River segment. Reasons for supporting this segment include wildlife and scenic values. Opposition to any tributary of the Blacks Fork being designated was grounded in a concern of adverse effects on timber management, grazing and access to and operation of the early warning sites for reservoir management. Further, some portion of the segment is already protected by Wilderness.

**(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.**

Designation of the East Fork Blacks Fork segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness, RHCA, and Recommended Wilderness within the stream corridor.

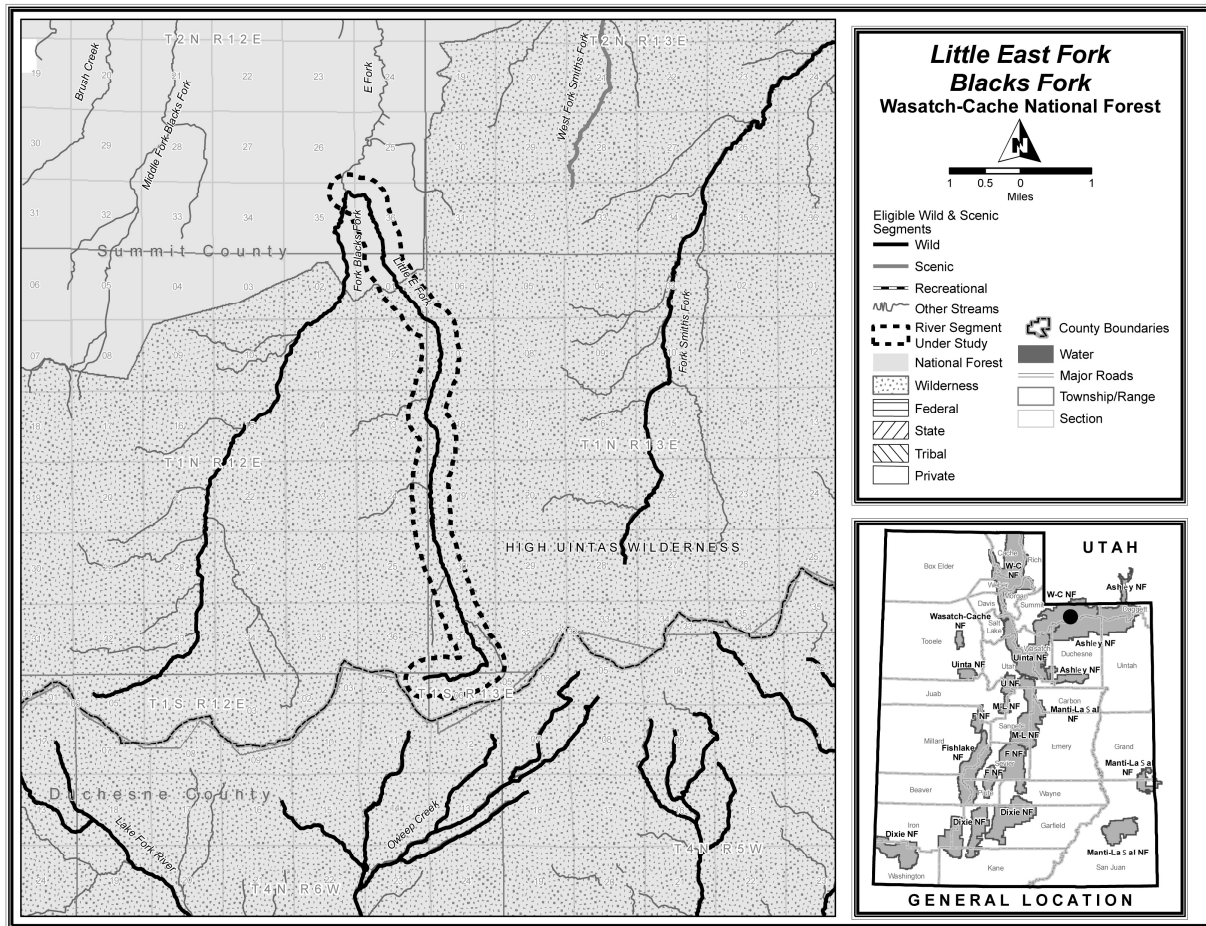
**(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.**

Should this segment be found suitable it would contribute to basin integrity especially when combined with the other eligible segments of the Blacks Fork drainage; namely, the Little East Fork, West Fork Blacks Fork, and the mainstem of the Blacks Fork. The majority of this stream is in the High Uintas Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

**(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.**

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

## Little East Fork Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



### STUDY AREA SUMMARY

**Name of River:** Little East Fork

**River Mileage:**

Studied: 9.2 miles, from source to confluence with East Fork Blacks Fork

Eligible: same

**Location:**

Little East Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 32, T 1 N, R 13 E, SLM	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 35, T 2 N, R 12 E, SLM	Wild	9.2

### **Physical Description of River Segment:**

This segment of the Little East Fork flows between elevations ranging from 9,400-11,400 feet from its source near Squaw Pass, downstream to its confluence with Little East Fork. This is a fairly typical north-flowing High Uintas stream. There are not a lot of lakes in the drainage, and the drainage that the stream and canyon has cut is narrower than some adjacent to it. It is not a very steep drainage, but the stream bed is rocky. It has few meanders or falls. Soils are typical, thin rocky high elevation forest soils. It is surrounded by the high ridges of the Uintas. The creek has its headwaters in the alpine zone, then

flows through lodgepole forests which typically grow adjacent to the stream banks. A few small meadows are present in the middle portion of the segment, while some larger meadows are present near the confluence. It is a primitive, unmodified environment. Upland vegetation consists of lodgepole pine and aspen at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forest at higher elevations. Krummholz spruce-fir parklands and true alpine vegetation grow near the upper cirque basin. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive species have been identified in the corridor, although habitat is available for wolverine, Canada lynx, boreal owl, goshawk, and great gray owl, all sensitive species. Deer, elk, and moose inhabit the area. Habitat for mountain goats is also present. Smaller species include pika and ptarmigan. Fish species include Colorado cutthroat trout (a sensitive species), brook trout and rainbow trout.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

**Name and Date of Eligibility Document:** Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

**Determination of Free-flowing Condition:** The segment is free from dams, diversions or other modifications. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free flowing.

### **Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):**

**Ecology** – Diversity of riparian communities including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities, with a variety of willows and associated understory species are in relatively stable condition constitutes and outstandingly remarkable value.

## **CLASSIFICATION**

### **Basis for the Classification of River – Wild**

The Little East Fork is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The classification is wild because: the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

## **SUITABILITY REPORT**

**Landownership and Land Uses** – The Little East Fork, from its source near Squaw Pass downstream to its confluence with Little East Fork, is located on the Evanston Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. The segment lies entirely within National Forest system lands.

<b>River Mile</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Acres</b>
0-7.4	Wasatch-cache National Forest High Uintas Wilderness	2290
7.4-9.2	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	591
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>2881 acres</b>

**Mineral and Energy Resource Activities** – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness and has been withdrawn from mineral entry and mineral leasing. The small portion of

the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the Forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

**Water Resources Development** – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

**Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments** – Trail 103 provides access to the corridor, off of Trail 102 from the East Fork Blacks Fork Guard Station. The area is accessed from the East Fork Blacks Fork Trailhead which is well-developed and also has eight campsites present.

**Grazing Activities** – This entire segment is within the East Fork Blacks Sheep Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

**Recreation Activities** – Recreation use is moderately high and consists of fishing, biking and horseback riding. Fishing pressure is moderate. The State of Utah rates the fishery as a Class III (important). From some locations within the segment vistas of the High Uinta peaks are visible.

**Other Resource Activities** – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in this stream corridor.

**Special Designations** – The Little East Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 7.4 miles of the Little East Fork are within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the majority of the stream segment corridor:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest for the remainder of the stream



segment outside of wilderness:

Management Prescription 1.5 Recommended Wilderness: These are areas recommended for wilderness. They were identified through the Forest Plan revision roadless area inventory, evaluation and recommendation process. This analysis is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning regulations and the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. Congress retains the final authority for designating wilderness areas. For areas recommended as wilderness, wilderness characteristics must be protected until Congress takes final action (FSH 1909.12,7.31). These areas are managed to maintain the characteristics qualifying them as capable and available for wilderness recommendation. Activities must not result in long-term changes to the wilderness character.

(S1.5) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, new trail construction, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(G1.5-1) Snowmobiling is allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G1.5-2) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed.

(G1.5-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

**Socio-Economic Environment** –This stream is located in Summit County, a place that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the Trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

**Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated** – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following

designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

#### **SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:**

**(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System**

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

**(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.**

This segment is on entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land.

**(3) Support or opposition to designation.**

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the Little East Fork.

During scoping Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses. A general supportive comment received thought it was important to protect Uinta Mountain segments even if they were within the Wilderness.

During the public comment period for the Draft EIS, one supporting comment was submitted for this segment citing its pristine ecological condition. Opposition to any tributary of the Blacks Fork being designated was grounded in a concern of adverse effects on timber management, grazing and access to and operation of the early warning sites for reservoir management. Further, some portion of the segment is already protected by Wilderness.

**(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.**

Designation of the Little East Fork segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness and Recommended Wilderness within the stream corridor.

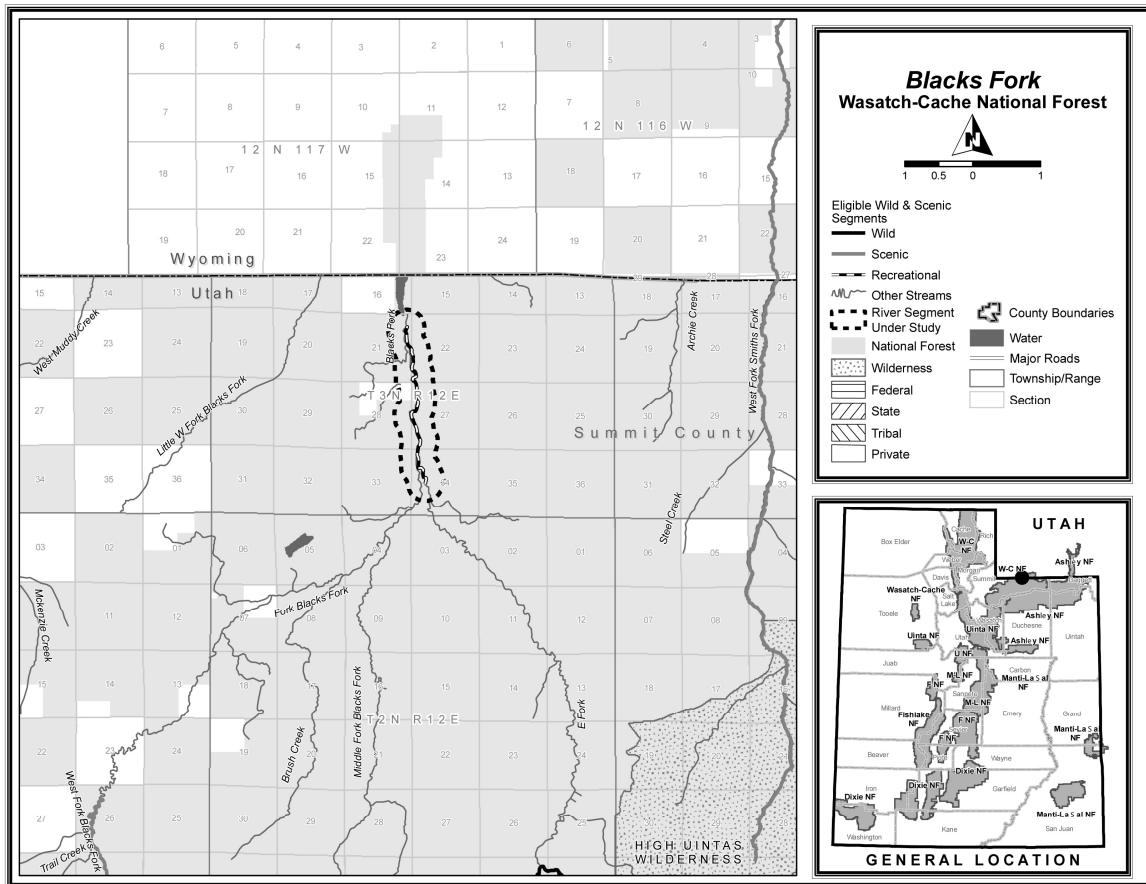
**(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.**

Should this segment be found suitable it would contribute to basin integrity, especially when combined with the other eligible headwater segments in the Blacks Fork drainage; namely, the East Fork and West Fork. The majority of this stream is in the High Uintas Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

**(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.**

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

# Blacks Fork River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



## STUDY AREA SUMMARY

**Name of River:** Blacks Fork

**River Mileage:**

Studied: 2.7 miles, from confluence with West Fork Blacks Fork and East Fork Blacks Fork to Meek's Cabin Reservoir

Eligible: Same

**Location:**

Blacks Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 5, T 1 N, R 12 E, SLM	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 35, T 2 N, R 12 E, SLM	Recreational	2.7

## Physical Description of River Segment:

Elevations range from 8,700 to 8,800 feet within this segment from the confluence on the East Fork Blacks and the West Fork Black Fork Rivers to the inlet of the Meeks Cabin Reservoir. This segment is located in the glacial outwash valley bottom with braided sections at and below the confluence. The uplands of this section are characterized by lodgepole pine forests with some scattered openings dominated by sagebrush. Lodgepole occurs along the stream margins in narrow riparian bottoms while tall willows dominate areas with broader floodplains. Riparian communities are more or less natural in

appearance with few areas dominated by introduced species.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

**Name and Date of Eligibility Document:** Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

**Determination of Free-flowing Condition:** The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

### **Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):**

**History** – The Old Blacks Fork Commissary is the most outstanding tie hack site in the Uintas. The historical tie hacking operations in the Uintas were river related since the rivers were the means of moving the timbers downstream. The character, size, and condition of the commissary and its eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places makes for an outstandingly remarkable value. The Old Blacks Fork Commissary is on a private inholding along the segment and not on National Forest System land

### **CLASSIFICATION**

#### **Basis for the Classification of River – Recreational**

The Blacks Fork Segment from the confluence of West Fork Blacks Fork and the East Fork Blacks Fork to Meek's Cabin Reservoir is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream classification is recreational because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions or other modification of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains free-flowing and generally natural and riverine in appearance.
- Some developments. Substantial evidence of human activity.
- The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable.
- Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural uses.
- Lands may have been developed for the full range of forestry uses.
- Readily accessible by road or railroad.
- The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.
- Water quality sufficient to maintain outstandingly remarkable values.

### **SUITABILITY REPORT**

**Landownership and Land Uses** – This segment is on the Evanston Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. National Forest dominates ownership patterns. A limited area of one-quarter mile along the west bank is privately owned, but this land does not include the stream channel.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-2.7	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	894
	Private Land within stream corridor	31
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>925 acres</b>

This area is zoned Agricultural Grazing (AG-160) by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. The Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas.

**Mineral and Energy Resource Activities** –There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic

value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. The Blacks Fork stream segment corridor is within a high oil and gas potential area.

**Water Resources Development** – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

**Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments** – The stream is paralleled by Forest Road 058 which is gravel and receives light to moderate use. This road has been designated a scenic backway. Recreation opportunities along this segment are for dispersed recreation, and no developed facilities are present.

**Recreation Activities** – Scenic values along this segment are of midground and foreground settings with no distinctive scenes of the High Uinta peaks available. The Old Blacks Fork Commissary is the outstanding tie hack site in the Uintas. It is on a private inholding and not on National Forest System land, and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Hunting, fishing, and photography opportunities are all average for the area. The State of Utah ranks fishing here Class III (important).

**Other Resource Activities** – Economic values that might be derived from recreation are not outstanding, unless some significant capital investment in the Old Commissary site could attract visitors. There is one hunting outfitter guide whose area covers the Evanston District.

**Grazing Activities** – This stream segment corridor occurs within the Blacks Fork-Smiths Fork Cattle Allotment, the Little West Fork Sheep Allotment, and the Lyman Lake Sheep Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

**Special Designations** – The Blacks Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within along the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuel wood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land on the east side of the stream outside the 3.1a and 6.1 corridors:

Management Prescription 3.2 Terrestrial Habitats (3.2U Undeveloped/3.2D Developed) Emphasis: Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and corridors for seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

Management Prescription 3.2d consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land at the very end of the segment:

Management Prescription 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives: Emphasis is on properly functioning conditions. Emphasis is not on timber growth and yield. Instead it is on maintaining or restoring vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability.

(G5.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G5.1-2) Road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor north of the checkerboard ownership of private and National Forest land:

Management Prescription 6.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring non-forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives. Emphasis is on non-forested vegetation properly functioning conditions (i.e. vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability). Management encompasses the full range of land and resource treatment activities.

(G6.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non

commodity outputs and services.

(G6.1-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G6.1-3) Road construction, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed.

**Socio-Economic Environment** – This stream is located in Summit County which occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway, or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District that includes land in Wyoming and Utah. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There are a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

**Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated** – The current administering agency for lands along this segment is the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

### **SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:**

**(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.**

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which

include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

**(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.**

The majority of this stream segment is on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land and will be managed to maintain the integrity of the stream corridor. The level of development allowed on the private land within the corridor is managed by the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning regulations for AG-160 for private land in Utah.

**(3) Support or opposition to designation.**

There were public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that provided support for eligibility and designation for the Blacks Fork segment. Two comments related specifically to private landowners' rights and ownership of the historic property that could be removed (the historic building is the value for which this segment is considered outstanding).

During scoping Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses. A general supportive comment received thought it was important to protect Uinta Mountain segments even if they were within the Wilderness.

This segment received both supportive and opposing comments during the comment period for the Draft EIS. The State of Wyoming opposed designation to preserve the potential for expansion of the Meeks Cabin Reservoir. Two comments were opposed to designating any river segment in the Blacks Fork watershed because of a concern that designation will restrict multiple use potential, constrain economic benefit to Uinta County, Wyoming and that many miles were already protected by wilderness designation. Supportive comments included protecting the historical importance and beauty of the area.

**(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.**

Designation of the Blacks Fork segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the RHCA and the developed terrestrial environments within the stream corridor. Designation may add further restrictions to areas within the stream corridor managed for vegetation treatment projects.

**(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.**

This segment contributes little to the basin integrity as it is a very short segment of the main stem of the Blacks Fork and is far removed from the three eligible segments located in the headwaters of the Blacks Forks drainage.

**(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.** There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.